

1. A needle apparatus for administering a peripheral nerve block, said needle comprising:

a hollow needle having a plurality of fenestrations;

a needle hub having a hollow interior disposed about a proximate end of said

5 hollow needle; and

a stylet cap coupled to a proximate end of a stylet, wherein said stylet is freely  
slidable inside said hollow needle and needle hub, and wherein said  
stylet cap creates a releasably secure pressure fit with said needle hub  
upon full insertion of said stylet into said hollow needle.

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2. The needle apparatus of claim 1, wherein said fenestrations are longitudinally  
disposed along alternate sides of said hollow needle.

3. The needle apparatus of claim 2, wherein said needle hub further comprises at  
15 least one fenestration indicator disposed about said needle hub, said fenestration indicator  
capable of providing visual and tactual verification by a user of an orientation of said  
fenestrations.

4. The needle apparatus of claim 1, wherein said needle hub further comprises a  
20 magnifying window disposed within said needle hub, wherein said magnifying window  
provides a magnified view of said hollow interior of said needle hub.

5. A needle apparatus for administering a peripheral nerve block, said needle  
25 apparatus comprising:

a hollow needle having a plurality of fenestrations longitudinally disposed along alternate sides of a distal end of said hollow needle, wherein said distal end of said hollow needle is bounded by an occluded tip;

5           a needle hub disposed about a proximate end of said hollow needle, said needle hub having at least one fenestration indicator disposed about said needle hub, wherein said fenestration indicator is capable of providing visual and tactual verification by a user of an orientation of said fenestrations; and

10           a stylet cap disposed about a proximate end of a stylet, said stylet cap capable of forming a releasably secure, axially rotatable pressure fit with said needle hub, wherein said stylet is capable of freely sliding inside said hollow needle and needle hub, and wherein said stylet occludes said fenestrations when fully inserted into said hollow needle.

15           6.       The needle apparatus of claim 5, wherein said needle hub further comprises a magnifying window disposed within said needle hub, wherein said magnifying window provides a magnified view of an interior of said needle hub.

7. A method for anesthetizing an affected peripheral nerve, said affected peripheral nerve being contained within a corresponding fascial compartment, wherein said fascial compartment comprises a fascial membrane, said method comprising:

identifying a dermal area of a patient substantially corresponding to said affected peripheral nerve;

5 inserting said fenestrated needle into said dermal area, said fenestrated needle comprising a plurality of longitudinally disposed fenestrations;

advancing said fenestrated needle slowly through said dermal area and said fascial membrane;

10 withdrawing a stylet disposed within said fenestrated needle to verify proper placement of said fenestrated needle; and

injecting local anesthetic through said fenestrated needle to induce an efflux of local anesthetic into said fascial compartment and a corresponding anesthetic block at said affected peripheral nerve.

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8. The method of claim 7, wherein said fenestrated needle further comprises a needle hub disposed about a proximate end of said fenestrated needle.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein said withdrawing a stylet further comprises 20 observing a backflow of fluid within said needle hub to verify that said fenestrated needle is not located intravascularly.